

committee amendments pending by the Natural Resources Committee.

SENATOR HALL: On the committee amendments, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall, members of the Legislature, the committee amendments to this bill become the bill. Basically, it's a bill relating to the waste reduction and recycling incentive grants program, which has been funded, historically, by...from two sources of income, a tire tax and also a business fee assessment. There was some concern because no projects have been funded by this particular fund on tire projects. And it turned out from the testimony that there simply had not been any requests for funding relating to tire...tire recycling projects. So it seemed clear to the committee that we needed to do a couple of things in order to encourage some activity in this area, at the suggestion of Senator Robinson. And so what the committee amendments do and what the bill would do then is to give priority, within the fund, to grants that would be used for the recycling of tires or tire waste reduction. And, secondly, it would expand the entities that are allowed to apply for grants to include private entities, several of which have shown interest in...in tire projects, tire recycling projects or waste reduction projects. And so the bill would allow private entities to apply for the funds. Those are the two things the committee amendments do, and that would be what the bill would do.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On the committee amendments, discussion, Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Beutler did an excellent job of telling you what the bill is. We really had a good committee hearing on this. And, like he said, actually the bill was 163, I think it was two years ago. I think it was the year before I came into the body. And basically we make the two changes, we say that the grants in the tire portion of the bill or fund will...they will have a priority. And they go through a process, there's quite an involved process at DEQ. And I've given you a handout that shows you the different grants that have been given and lists the three different types of funds. At our committee hearing Mr. Haas, T.O. Haas, who's one of the large tire dealers in the State of Nebraska, he said that we sell about 1.6 million tires